

Critical Issues in Journalism: Trump and the Media

COMM 279 – 201 (5222)

Spring 2019

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 12:35 a.m. – 1:25 p.m.

School of COMM - Room 010

Description: This class will examine President Donald Trump's attitude toward and relationships with journalists – both those he approves of and those he admittedly dislikes. We will think critically about his comments about journalism, facts, fake news and the media. We will also go behind-the-scenes and study how journalists investigate and communicate with the president. Students will learn about and discuss several important events in journalism history as well as critical issues facing journalists today. The course will emphasize the role of journalism in a democratic society and many emerging issues facing the profession.

Instructor contact information:

Dodie Hofstetter

312-307-2906 (cell)

Email: dbhofstetter@gmail.com OR dhofstetter@luc.edu

Office hours: By appointment

Class objectives: Each week students:

- *May be given a reading assignment.
- *Maybe given a writing assignment.
- *Will prepare questions when guest speakers attend class.
- *Will present and participate in class discussions.
- *Will be given assignments in writing by instructor.
- *Will edit assignments for spelling, style, grammar.
- *Will conduct themselves in a professional, ethical manner.
- *May read aloud assignments.

Course policies: Students should treat this class as they would a job, acting in a professional, responsible manner in all aspects. Attendance is mandatory. The success of this class is dependent on student participation and the completion of assignments and readings on the assigned due date. This class works as a team and everyone must be on time and be prepared to participate. All assignments must be handed in on time.

Required texts and materials: Daily news coverage

Grades: Grades will be based on a 4.0 scale

A=4.0, A-=3.67, B+=3.33, B=3.0, B-=3.67, C+=2.33, C=2.0, C-=1.67, D+=1.33, D=1.0, below is failing. Students must earn a minimum of a 1.67 in order to have a course count toward their major. If they must repeat the course, they do not earn credit hours but may improve upon their former grade.

Evaluation/Grading:

- A. Each week, instructor will return graded writing assignments.
- B. Students will be graded on class participation/presentations, written assignments, attitude and attendance.
- C. Late work/missed assignments will be accepted and will be graded down by one full grade. All assignments must be completed, but no credit will be given later than two weeks after original due date. **If assignments are not completed, student will not pass the course.**
- D. In the case of an absence, it is a student's responsibility to contact instructor to report absence and to receive homework assignments **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. Do **NOT** wait until the next week or you will be behind. Assignments that were due on day of absence will be accepted one week late with a possible grade penalty.
- E. Spelling, grammar and style mistakes will be subtracted from an assignment's grade.
- F. All assignments from students must be typed and must be double-spaced, and a printed hard copy handed in for grading.
- G. If a student sends an email to instructor, mark in the subject line: MESSAGE FROM LOYOLA STUDENT.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic dishonesty can take several forms, including, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying another student's work, and submitting false documents. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, such acts as:

- Obtaining, distributing, or communicating examination materials prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the teacher;
- Providing information to another student during an examination;
- Obtaining information from another student or any other person during an examination;
- Using any material or equipment during an examination without consent of the instructor, or in a manner which is not authorized by the instructor;
- Attempting to change answers after the examination has been submitted;
- Unauthorized collaboration, or the use in whole or part of another student's work, on homework, lab reports, programming assignments, and any other course work which is completed outside of the classroom;
- Falsifying medical or other documents to petition for excused absences or extensions of deadlines; or
- Any other action that, by omission or commission, compromises the integrity of the academic evaluation process.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism is the

appropriation of ideas, language, work, or intellectual property of another, either by intent or by negligence, without sufficient public acknowledgement and appropriate citation that the material is not one's own. It is true that every thought probably has been influenced to some degree by the thoughts and actions of others. Such influences can be thought of as affecting the ways we see things and express all thoughts. Plagiarism, however, involves the taking and use of specific words and ideas of others without proper acknowledgement of the sources, and includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Submitting as one's own material copied from a published source, such as Internet, print, CD-ROM, audio, video, etc.;
 - Submitting as one's own another person's unpublished work or examination material;
 - Allowing another or paying another to write or research a paper for one's own benefit;
- or
- Purchasing, acquiring, and using for course credit a pre-written paper.

The above list is in no way intended to be exhaustive. Students should be guided by the principle that it is of utmost importance to give proper recognition to all sources. To do so is both an act of personal, professional courtesy and of intellectual honesty. Any failure to do so, whether by intent or by neglect, whether by omission or commission, is an act of plagiarism. A more detailed description of this issue can be found at

<http://luc.edu/english/writing.shtml#source>. In addition, a student may not submit the same paper or other work for credit in two or more classes. This applies even if the student is enrolled in the classes during different semesters. If a student plans to submit work with similar or overlapping content for credit in two or more classes, the student should consult with all instructors prior to submission of the work to make certain that such submission will not violate this standard. **Plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will result minimally in the instructor's assigning the grade of "F" for the assignment or examination. The instructor may impose a more severe sanction, including a grade of "F" in the course. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported by the instructor to the appropriate area head and to the office of the Dean of the School of Communication. A complete description of the School of Communication Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:** <http://www.luc.edu/soc/Policy.shtml>

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY CENTER (SAC): If you have a special circumstance that may have some impact on your course work and for which you may require accommodations, please contact the SAC as soon as possible. Formal arrangements must be made through the office before course adjustments can be made. Additional information about the services available at Loyola, including eligibility for services, is on the SAC website: <https://luc.edu/sac/sacstudents/>.

Class meeting schedule:

(Disclaimer: This syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of all changes.)

Week 1: Jan. 14, 16, 18

- Introduction to course, instructor, students.

- Explanation of writing assignment and class projects.
- Discussion of Trump behavior

Week 2:

Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Day – No Class

Jan. 23, 25

- Analysis of Trump behavior
- Discussion of Trump behavior

Week 3: Jan. 28, 30, Feb. 1

- Written assignment due; presentation/discussion of written assignment
- Analysis of Trump behavior
- Discussion of Trump behavior

Week 4: Feb. 4, 6, 8

- Analysis of Trump behavior
- Discussion of Trump behavior
- Guest speaker
- Written assignment due: Q's for speaker

Week 5: Feb. 11, 13, 15

- Analysis of Trump behavior
- Discussion of Trump behavior
- Guest speaker
- Written assignment due: Q's for speaker

Week 7: Feb. 18, 20, 22

- Analysis of Trump behavior
- Discussion of Trump behavior
- Guest speaker
- Written assignment due: Q's for speaker

Week 8: Week of March 4 – Spring Break – No class

Week 9: March 11, 13, 15

- Analysis of Trump behavior
- Discussion of Trump behavior
- Guest speaker
- Written assignment due: Q's for speaker
- Explanation of Final Project

Week 10: March 18, 20, 22

- Analysis of Trump behavior
- Discussion of Trump behavior

Week 11: March 25, 27, 29

- Analysis of Trump behavior
- Discussion of Trump behavior

Week 12: April 1, 3, 5

- Student presentations of final projects

Week 13: April 8, 10, 12

- Student presentations of final projects

Week 14: April 14, 17

April 19 – Good Friday – No Class

- Student presentations of final projects

Week 15: April 22, 24, 26

- Student presentations of final projects
- Follow-up thoughts